

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Xuelong SHI, et al. :
Serial No.: : Group Art Unit:
Filed: February 27, 2002 : Examiner:
For: METHOD OF IDENTIFYING AN EXTREME INTERACTION PITCH REGION,
METHODS OF DESIGNING MASK PATTERNS AND MANUFACTURING MASKS,
DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHODS AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before "FIELD OF THE INVENTION" insert the following:

--RELATED APPLICATION

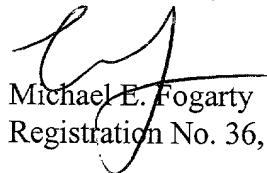
This application is a Continuation-In-Part of United States Patent Application No. 09/840,305, filed April 24, 2001, which claims priority from United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/271,722 filed on February 28, 2001, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.--

REMARKS

The above-referenced application is amended to insert the priority information into the specification. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CHANGES

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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